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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria

DATE DISTR.

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SUBJECT Reduction in size of the  
Arab Higher Executive

NO. OF PAGES

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PLACE  
ACQUIRED Lebanon, BeirutNO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF  
INFO. 26 December 1949SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Palestinian Arab source with good connections in the Arab Higher Executive.

The Beirut headquarters of the Arab Higher Executive is being reduced in size, and followers in Syria and Lebanon of the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem are being informed that they must prepare themselves to work for the Mufti without pay. The Beirut offices are being cut from ten to four rooms and most of the office equipment is being sold, while Mufti followers are being asked to sign and return forms stating that they will serve him for nothing.

Field Comment. Source states that those close to the Mufti realize that this is a move designed to "shake loose" a great many people who pay lip service to the Mufti, but who are in reality a security hazard. The Mufti is angry because there are too many informants, particularly for the Israelis and the British, within the ranks of his followers. Source states that the Arab Higher Executive is not actually short of money, but, rather, that the action is being taken to tighten up the organization. He is of the opinion that this "trick" is intended to go a bit further. It is supposed to indicate to Israel and to Great Britain that the Mufti's power is on the decline, whereas he is actually planning to ride into greater power by helping Shukri Quwatli to re-emerge as head of the Syrian Government in the near future.

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SOURCES METHODSEXEMPTION 38.2-B  
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